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	Congressional Leason	
OFFICE:		
FAX NO:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	
FROM:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	
PHONE:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	
DATE:	11-3-2014	
PAGES (i	including this cover sheet):	
NOTE:		

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☐ BIRMINGHAM

341 Vance Federal Building 1800 Fifth Avenue North Birmingham, AL 35203-2171 Phone: (205) 731-1500

Fax: (205) 731-0221

HUNTSVILLE OFFICE

AmSouth Center, Suite 80/2 200 Clinton Avenue, N.VV. Huntsville, AL 35801-4932 Phone: (256) 533-0979

Fax: (256) 533-0745

MOBILE OFFICE

Colonial Bank Centre, Suite 2300-A 41 West 1-65 Service Road North Mobile, AL 36608-1201 Phone: (251) 414-3083 Fax: (251) 414-5845

MONTGOMERY OFFICE

550 Halcyon Summit Drive Suite 150 Montgomery, AL 36117 Phone: (334) 244-7017.

Fax: (334) 244-7091

JEFF SESSIONS ALABAMA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0104

November 3, 2014

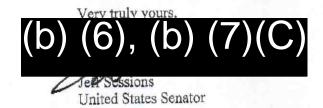
COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
Ranking Member
JUDICIARY
ARMED SERVICES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Michael Yeager Assistant Commissioner Office of Congressional Affairs United States Customs and Border Protection 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Mr. Yeager:

Thank you for your assistance. Please respond to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) in my Mobile Office at the following address:

Office of Senator Jeff Sessions 41 West I-65 Service Road North, Suite 2300-A Mobile, Alabama 36608-1291 251-414-3083



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PRINTED ON REGYCLED PAPER



FAX COVER SHEET

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TO: 4145845

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Privacy Act Release

Date [1-3-2014 Social Security No. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Claim No. SRC/A No.

Dear Senator Sessions: Mag(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

I request your assistance in resolving the problem I am having with (agency)

Customs has seized my product. Plaase HELP!
Give highlights, necessary dates and locations. Use second sheet if needed.

See affected Doc. +: Hed "HELP"

In keeping with the restrictions of the privacy act, you are authorized to request any information required to assist me.

Name:

Work Phone: (

(b) (6), (b) (7)

NOV-3-2014 14:04 FROM:UNIQUE FIRE STOP

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

TO: 4145845

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Unique Fire Stop Products (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Date: 11/03/2014

To: The Honorable Jeffery Sessions

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Our property incorrectly coded and seized at Port of Mobile Customs.

UNIQUE FIRE STOP invented, patented, UL tested, built a feelilty in Robertsdale, Al. to produce and bring to market our mechanical sleeve systems to protect life and property. Our products that have been compliant with UL standards and guidelines for over 20 years with no problems. We have multiple products and multiple listings and are the only FIRESTOP manufacturer in the state. This is our first time to try to import parts and pieces to be assembled here at our plant in Robertsdale, Al.

We had planned to inspect the parts, insert the required putty, doc/warn labels and assembly instructions. At that point it became a UL system and would be sold to cable installers nationwide. www.uniquofireetop.com click on the Smooth Firestop system to see, https://www.uniquofirestop.com/sp.html Our Smooth Firestop device is our # 1 seller over the years and until the competition had circumvented our patents and flooded the market with clone sleeves, we were doing well enough to pay the bills. We have always made these sleeves in house except for several years ago we bought some sleeves through a Chicago Distributor, Garvin Industries Imported from the same Chinese maker. It was several thousand sleeves and we sold them all. During the process of selling them we were inspected by UL at least 8 times with no issues and no tariffe or duties.

As this problem of "dumping unfolded, I began to study the HS Code manual and saw nothing even resembling our unique parts so my customs broker just picked one labeling us as 'Stainless Steel threaded fittings" and it has a dumping duty. We are not any of that. So when our product was selzed and inspected, the customs agent reclassified it as "pipe". It is not pipe, it is components of an unfinished product.

I was told we were going to fall under the dumping laws and would be fined 60% of the value of the product. They then proceeded to go to my website and calculate value at the list price of a finished system even though what they had was an unfinished incomplete bag of parts. So now the shipment is valued at \$250,000. Sixty % of that is \$150,000. The total I was invoiced including the un finished product, shipping and cost of container was about \$72,000.

At this point I hired an attorney (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and he proceeded to get them the correct code # but they said they and only they could assign the code. Then we were slammed with a "tariff". The attorney again interceded and it was no longer a problem. But there was a new problem. Then there was the issue with the UL mark. We are allowed to apply the abbreviated mark on one of the parts for which I was told I had a variation due to lack of space on the device. Customs deemed it an "illegal mark" and again impounded the cargo. I had UL issue a letter stating it was OK to release the cargo "unconditionally" as it was not illegally marked.

So now they have re selzed it again and are assessing duties for dumping. (\$244,000, was the latest assessment) They are also planning to send the container to the customs seizure yard in Florida soon. I am awaiting word on how much longer it can stay in Mobile.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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